

Hawkesbury City Council - Notice of Condolence Motion

For the next General Meeting

Moved by: Councillor Zamprogno. **Submitted:** 12th September 2021.

Subject: Acknowledging the passing of Peter Speet AFSM.

Motion:

That Council:

1. Council recognises the recent passing of Peter Speet AFSM of Oakville, former Captain of the Oakville RFS and Group Captain of the Hawkesbury Rural Fire Service;
2. Express its condolences and gratitude for Peter's service, via letter, to the Speet family; and
3. Observe one minute's silence in respect of Peter's contribution to our community.

Background:

Peter Speet, AFSM gave over 63 years of service to the Oakville RFS, and to the broader Hawkesbury community. He passed on Sunday aged 79.

Serving variously as Senior Deputy Captain, Captain and Group Captain within the RFS, he first received the National Medal with clasp in 1990, and the National Fire Service Medal in 2005. He was honoured again in November 2020 at a function to add a rare fourth clasp to his National Medal where Minister the Hon. David Elliott MP, Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, Susan Templeman MP, and Robyn Preston MP were present.

Peter was the ultimate 'Hawkesbury local boy', attending Oakville Public School and then Richmond High. The Speet family were early settlers to the district and Speets Road in Oakville is named after them. He married his beloved wife Roslyn in 1967 and they celebrated 54 years together in February.

Peter continued to serve the community and farm his property at Oakville even after losing one leg in an accident (while helping someone whose car had broken down on the side of the road) in 1972.

The Speet paddock at Oakville has long been used to train new generations of RFS cadets in the practicalities of firefighting, but also the finer art of hose and reel events – Oakville being frequent champions of RFS field days for many years. The glass case at Oakville fire shed full of too many trophies and ribbons to count.

Oakville RFS Brigade has been a mainstay of the Oakville community since its founding 75 years ago in 1946. It has provided protection to life and property in times of fire; its crews regularly attend vehicle accidents; it has an outreach cadet program in local schools; it rescues livestock from dams and sinkholes. It is a significant social outlet for the Oakville area.

Generations of young men and ladies have grown up under Peter's wing and had the virtues of service to the community and volunteerism drilled into us, including myself. Peter's gentle but shrewd leadership, his practical and laconic farmer's wisdom, his community spirit, and amazing personal resilience and determination set a high standard for us to follow.

Peter leaves wife Roslyn, his daughters Sally, Katrina, Melanie and Heidi, sister Diane McKinnon, and a large extended family, many of whom have followed in Peter's footsteps as members or supporters of the RFS.

It is right that Hawkesbury Council honours the life and service of Peter Speet, and that it conveys our condolences to the Speet family.